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COR 0318
Copy 1 of 1

14 January 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director, DPD-DD/P

THROUGH : Director of Administration, DPD-DD/P

SUBJECT : CORONA and SENTRY cover stories

1. Reference is made to a message [] (IN 02316)) for Mr. Bissell from Col. Shephard in which a message to Gen. Anderson and Gen. Schriever is quoted explaining the need to play down the reconnaissance aspect of the problem, and substitute scientific research as the purpose of the SENTRY effort.

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2. Col. Shephard is rightfully concerned about this since this cover plan for the SENTRY program; i. e., satellites for peaceful and scientific purposes, is the same as the one being used to cover CORONA shots.

3. If the concept of scientific research is extended from the THOR phase into the ATLAS phase, I feel it will dilute the DISCOVERY program and only substitute the word DISCOVERY for SENTRY.

4. At the time the DISCOVERY story was written, all contributors realized that scientific research could not cover the entire SENTRY (WS-117L) program but hoped that it might work for the THOR phase. The purposes of the DISCOVERY story was to deflect the reconnaissance association from the THOR phase of the later ATLAS phase. If the entire SENTRY program becomes a peaceful exploration of space, we will have no activity on which to hang the reconnaissance publicity.

5. Recommend that a meeting be held with Air Force personalities responsible for the SENTRY cover story and that appropriate persons be briefed emphasizing the importance of the CORONA program. It should also be emphasized at this meeting that the life of the CORONA program is dependent on the political

NRO review(s) completed.

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implications of reconnaissance as well as tactical considerations and that the use of the ATLAS program as a scapegoat for adverse reconnaissance publicity may be the price we must pay to obtain results from the CORONA program.



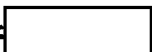
Ass't. Cover Officer
DPD-DD/P

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Shown to Col Henry on 19 Jan. - He states that Gen. Smart is aware of need for an additional cover story for 1172 ^(Atlas) which will be different from Corona cover.



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